

In re the [] Marriage [] Paternity of _____

**REQUEST TO FAMILY COURT
MEDIATION SERVICE
FOR MEDIATION**_____
Petitioner/Jt. Petitioner

--- and ---

CASE # ____ FA / PA _____

Respondent/Jt. Petitioner**TO: SANDRA K. GRADY, MILWAUKEE COUNTY FAMILY COURT COMMISSIONER
901 N. 9TH ST., RM 707, MILWAUKEE, WI 53233****FROM:** Please **PRINT** all information except signature

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____

I request Court-ordered mediation with:

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Our child(ren)'s names and dates of birth are: _____

The other party and I have been unable to work out problems with legal custody and/or physical placement. The problems are:

(add pages if needed).

I understand that this IS NOT a request for a court hearing, and that, if we can settle our disagreements through mediation, we may not need to go to court. I understand that I must send a copy of this request to the other parent (*unless the other parent has joined in this request*).

I join in this request:

X _____
Signature_____
Print/type name_____
DateX _____
Signature_____
Print/type name_____
Date

HOW DO COURTS HANDLE DISAGREEMENTS ABOUT CHILDREN?

The best answer to disagreements about children is the one the parents decide on together. When that doesn't happen, one or both parents can turn to the court for help. Court action does not have to be a hearing or litigation. There is strong evidence that when parents have a court battle over children, the children are harmed. To avoid this, the courts offer parents who have disagreements about their children the chance to try an alternative way to settle their dispute. This alternative is called *mediation*.

In mediation the two of you meet with a neutral third party, or mediator, and work to find solutions to the disputes you are having. The mediator helps the two of you talk about the issues in ways that maybe you cannot manage on your own. Many times parents can work with the mediator to find an answer acceptable to both of them without ever going to court.

When you consider the financial and emotional costs of litigation, mediating your custody or placement dispute is clearly a better way to settle these issues. Mediation is not about winning and losing. It is about doing what is best for your children.

- Mediation helps you find constructive solutions to your disagreements and also increases the chances you will be able to solve any future problems on your own.
- Mediation is scheduled more quickly than a court date.
- Mediation is private--what is said in mediation cannot be used in court.
- Mediation is reasonably priced – the cost is \$100 per person.
- Mediation allows you to decide together what's best for your children, rather than a judge deciding for you. Ask yourselves--who knows and cares most about your children?

If you are interested in mediation and would like a referral please complete the form on the back and return it to the Office of the Family Court Commissioner. Please make sure to include your E-mail address. If you have any questions, please call Family Court Mediation Services at 414-278-4412 for more information.